DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 20-903/S-010

Schering Corporation
Attention: Joseph F. Lamendola
Senior Director, Marketed Products, Support and Training
2000 Galloping Hill Road
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Dear Dr. Lamendola,

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated February 7, 2001, received February 8, 2001, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for for REBETOL® (ribavirin) capsules for use in combination with the approved biologic product Intron®A (interferon alfa 2b) (Rebetron Combination Therapy™).

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated February 7, 2001, May 4, 2001, May 14, 2001, June 1, 2001, October 19, 2001, and October 23, 2001.

This supplemental new drug application, submitted as a " Special Supplement, Changes Being Effected," was revised post submission to prior approval status. This supplemental new drug application provides for the inclusion of a new paragraph in the **PRECAUTIONS** section that describes a potential side effect, hypertriglyceridemia, as follows:

> Triglycerides: Elevated triglyceride levels have been observed in patients treated with interferon including REBETOL/INTRON A therapy. Elevated triglyceride levels should be managed as clinically appropriate. Severe hypertriglyceridemia (triglycerides >1000 mg/dL) may result in pancreatitis. Discontinuation of REBETOL/INTRON A therapy should be considered for patients with persistently elevated triglycerides (triglycerides >1000 mg/dL) associated with symptoms of potential pancreatitis, such as abdominal pain, nausea, or vomiting (see **WARNINGS - Other**).

We have completed the review of this supplemental application, and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug products are safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted final printed labeling (package insert submitted October 23, 2001, patient package insert submitted October 23, 2001). Accordingly, the supplemental application is approved effective on the date of this letter.

If a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a "Dear Health Care Professional" letter) is issued to physicians and others responsible for patient care, we request that you submit a copy of the letter to this NDA and a copy to the following address:

MEDWATCH, HF-2
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Please submit one market package of the drug product when it is available.

We remind you that you must comply with the requirements for an approved NDA set forth under 21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81.

If you have any questions, call Destry M. Sillivan, M.S., Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 827-2335.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Debra Birnkrant, M.D.
Acting Director
Division of Antiviral Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation IV
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research